


Unknown Sculptor

DRAUSE 03

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Sculptors - U
C Statuaries



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Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Unknown sculptor

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Atascadero, Calif.

March 15, 1957.

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry,
The Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your letter of March 6, further information regarding the statue of Lincoln is as follows:

The statue, or more properly statuette, is a little less than 20" high including the 1" base he is standing on. His right hand is leaning on a pedestal. At the front of the one inch base on which he is standing are the letters A. L., and on the back of the base are the words "Copyright Secured," these words and the initials are obviously from the mold cast with the statue, which is plaster of Paris, or some such composition, but it has dark specks in the mixture which would indicate something else is mixed with the plaster of Paris.

I put a piece of tracing paper over the name J Nicolay and I am enclosing it along with the pictures. This name was not in the original mold, facing the statue it is on the right hand side of the base on which he stands, and looks like hand writing to me, but is scratched into the material so that it can be seen very plainly. Please note the way the "y" is made. All the other letters are capital and the "y" is a small letter "y." What the letter after the "y" is I do not know, but the "t" is plain. Also note



the 5 in the 1865 does not have a "flag" on it.

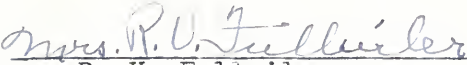
It came to light in an antique shop in Massachusetts where I purchased it.

The figure and base all has a smooth gray finish, and the details like buttons, necktie, etc are very clear.

The copyright office failed to turn up any information, but they, like you, were under the impression the sculptors name was J. Nicolay, but I do not think that is the case.

The J NICOLAY is without doubt someone's handwriting, but whose, I have no idea.

Yours very truly,


Mrs. R. V. Fullwiler,
P.O.Box 542,
Atascadero, Calif.

P.S.: I also have the "Council of War" by John Rogers, showing Lincoln seated, and General Grant and Stanton Standing. There is also one in the Essex Institute, Salem, Mass.

March 21, 1957

Mrs. R. V. Fullwiler
P.O. Box 542
Atascadero, Calif.

Dear Mrs. Fullwiler:

I have your letter of March 15 with the four photographs and the tracing of the name that appears on your statuette. I am now convinced that J. Nicolay is not the sculptor of the statuette. Perhaps your suggestion is correct that someone has placed that name on there after the statue was finished. As I stated before in my letter to you, John Nicolay was one of Lincoln's private secretaries.

I have again made an extensive search through our voluminous files pertaining to statues, statuettes, busts, etc., and I have failed to answer your question. As there is apparently no copyright on the statuette perhaps it is the work of an amateur artist and is the only one of its kind in existence. Perhaps the artist expected to copyright the statuette and failed to do so.

I am wondering what disposition you expect to make of the statuette. I think we would be interested in its purchase if your price is reasonable. We would like it as a curiosity more than as a genuine production. However, from the photographs it appears that the likeness is very good. Thank you very much for letting me know about this piece of work.

Yours sincerely,

RGM:WC

Director

1901

1902

1903

1904

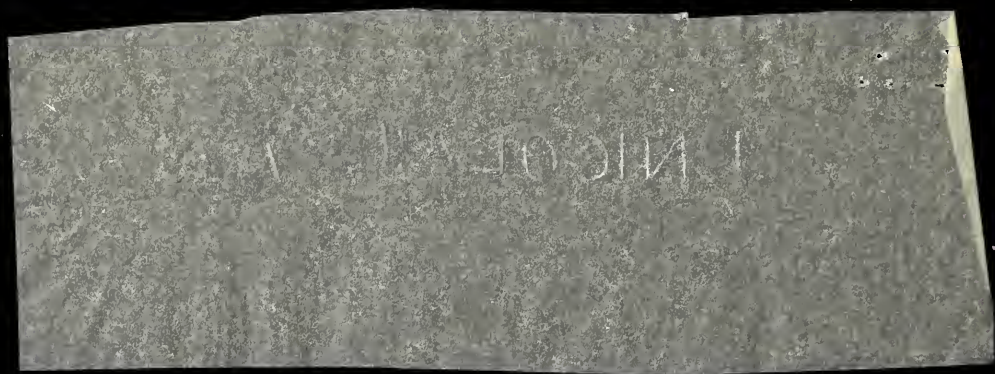
1905

1906

1907

1908

J NICOLAY / 1806





MAP

57

March 14, 1957

Please return
to H. E. Freewiler
Atascadero,
Calif.

G 394



MAP 57

March 17, 1967

Please return to
R. E. Freckles
Alameda, Cal.
Calif.

5
194



March 17, 1959

Please return to
L. E. Fullweiler
Olaton, Okla.,
Calif.

6 394



March 17, 1957

Please return
to H.E. Fullweiler
Atascadero,
Calif.

CO
CO
42

Unknown Sculptor

DRAWING

Sculptors - Unknown
(Stuffed with)

